(b) and (c) No specific recommendations were made as the workshop aimed at creating awareness and providing information about various aspect of phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances. Organising of such workshops has been a regular activity. So far, thirty awareness programmes have been organised in various parts of the country.

Expansion/Development of SSI in Rural Areas

4655. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion and development of small scale industries in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals for the above purpose; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Special thrust is given for rural areas through the schemes like the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, and the National Programme on Rural Industrialization (NPRI).

Steps to make Indian Space Programme Self-dependent

†4656. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Governmental and private users of the Indian satellites set up in space at present and the revenue earned by Government therefrom alongwith the details of the expenditure incurred on these satellites; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the innovative steps Government propose to take to make Indian space programme self-dependent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are currently, more than 500 accredited users of Indian Satellites both in the public and private sectors. The public users of services of Indian satellites, Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) and Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) are Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Prasar Bharati and several Government Departments, viz., India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Ministry of Rural Development, etc. The private users of Indian Satellites include M/s. INTELSAT, International Telecommunication Organisation and Indian private T.V. broadcasters. While it is difficult to compute the overall revenue earned by the Government considering the various spin off activities/benefits arising from the service of these satellites, the direct revenue earned by Department of Space including the domestic and the international segments is approximately Rs. 410 crores during the 9th Plan Period.

The expenditure on INSAT and IRS satellites currently serving in orbit is Rs. 2845 crores.

(b) The Indian Space programme is directed towards development and utilisation of space technology in a self-reliant manner for socio-economic development of the country. Towards meeting this objective, development of State-of-the-art cost-effective satellites and launch vehicles is being done on a continuing basis.

Income tax net for beneficiary committees conducting work of MPLADS

4657. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state: